

For Immediate Release

IDOC Employees Take a Plunge for the Special Olympics

March 3, 2009 (Indianapolis, Indiana) – Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) employees work daily in a challenging environment to ensure public safety. Nevertheless, some IDOC employees recently encountered another harsh environment—frigid waters—to raise money for a worthy cause.

Teams from New Castle Correctional Facility, Miami Correctional Facility, Indiana State Prison, and the Plainfield Correctional Complex raised more than \$4,500 for the Special Olympics by participating in the 2009 “Freezin’ for a Reason” Polar Plunge.



Plainfield SITCON team members jump into freezing waters for the Polar Plunge.

The first plunge took place at the Waterbowl in Muncie on January 31, and five New Castle Correctional Facility staff members participated. Officer Billy Terhar, Officer Brian Mangon, Sergeant Shad Rice, Sergeant Todd Deweese, and Superintendent Jeff Wrigley represented the facility and raised \$375.

Then, on February 14, Miami Correctional Facility’s team received a plaque for raising the most money for the Special Olympics at Kokomo’s Polar Plunge. The facility donated \$1,193 and had five of its employees take the plunge into the icy 33 degree water at Kokomo Reservoir. Lt. Douglas Nelson, Officer Earnest Parkin, Sgt. Christopher Ertel, Casework Manager Constance Iddings, and Officer Daniel Madson represented IDOC’s Emergency Operations, as well as MCF.

Indiana State Prison staff members participated in the Polar Bear Plunge on February 28 at Lake Eliza in Valparaiso. The facility's team received 2 awards, one for the most money collected by a corporation, which was \$2,424.65, and the most participants for a corporation, which was 17 people.



Indiana State Prison's Polar Bear Plunge Team

Also on February 28, the Plainfield SITCON Team made a plunge into the arctic waters at Eagle Creek. The Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility and Reception Diagnostic Center supported team member Steve Krause with a total of \$380, while Plainfield Correctional Facility supported team members Katie Kinneman and George Shepherd with a total of \$150. The Plainfield SITCON Team has become proactive this last past year and has taken it upon themselves to raise money for specific training seminars and to give back to the community.

“I admire all of the IDOC teams that participated in the Polar Plunge this year for their willingness to brave freezing waters for a good cause. In addition to that, I commend each participant for their charitable spirit,” said IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss. “Once again, I am proud that IDOC employees continually give back to their communities.”

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